

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
November 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), Michelle Clark (MC), David Davis (DD), Kris Dighe (KD), Beri Kravitz (BK), Tolulope Odunlami (TO), Geoff Sanders (GS) and Sura Yakowitz (SY).

Absent: None.

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW); Lise Soukup (LS) –City of Rockville Stormwater Engineer; Steve Cardon – Rockville resident and member of Watershd Protection working group.

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm in the Diamondback Terrapin Room at Rockville City Hall. This Commission meeting was immediately preceded by a discussion by the full Commission with the Planning Division and their consultants on the drafting of the Rockville Pike Plan.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

DD makes a motion to approve the October 10, 2007 meeting minutes; GS seconds. Minutes passed into record by unanimous vote.

3. RORZOR Draft Zoning Ordinance for review

Review assignments for the Zoning Ordinance:

Chapters 1 & 2 (General): Everyone

Chapters 3-9 (Process/Procedures): FK & KD

Chapters 10-15 (Zones): TO & SA

Chapters 16-18 (Parking, Green Space): SY & GS

Chapters 19-21 + manual (Enforcement/APFO/manual): DD & BK

Begin review of ordinance; we will be meeting with Planning/RORZOR on November 27th for Q&A. Get final comments to FK by Dec. 14th for her to compile for submission.

NW to email out RORZOR links, additional information.

4. Stormwater Utility Fee at Mayor & Council in December

LS was on hand to provide the Environment Commission with an update on the progress of the Stormwater Utility Fee creation. She provided some background information on how the fee would be based on the amount of impervious surface area on the site, and the many benefits of utilizing a utility fee to fund stormwater projects in the City.

The Commission had some questions regarding credits – both for residential and commercial properties. For example, how would LID practices (which would be reducing runoff from the site) be rewarded? LS said that MD is currently rewriting the LID section of the Stormwater Manual, and Rockville would like to see these new requirements (due out in 2008) before determining what credits would be appropriate. FK also suggested that the City could play a role in educating HOAs who may have barriers to the widespread implementation of LID (e.g., not allowing rain gardens or rain barrels).

LS went over the schedule for the Stormwater Utility Fee, starting with a general overview in early December followed by an ordinance allowing the fee later in December. There will be a public comment period opened for the ordinance, so the Commission could submit any recommendations or endorsements they have at that time.

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5. Stormwater Utility Fee Endorsement

KD said that coming up with language for the Commission's endorsement of the Stormwater Utility Fee is appropriate for the Watershed Protection Working Group. They will present something to the Commission at the next meeting.

NW will send KD examples of past endorsements and other similar issue papers.

6. Green Building Program Development

Tabled until next month.

7. Working Group Updates

Tabled until next meeting due to time constraints.

The LEED-ND and Twinbrook Station discussions will take place at the next meeting.

8. Staff Updates

None pressing.

9. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.